



January-March 2015  
Volume 8, Issue 1

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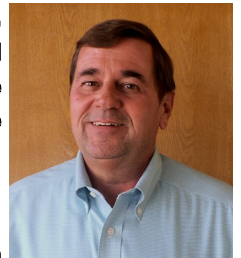
Building Official

## Council Meetings

are held  
at 6:00pm  
on the  
**1st & 3rd Monday**  
of each month  
@ 215 W. Sixth St.  
Ferris, TX 75125

## Dennis Burn, City Manager

**The Soccer Fields along Ferris Road are under construction. There has been some preliminary grading performed and installation of the sprinkler lines is underway. Once the sprinkler system is complete additional top soil will be brought in and then seeded.**



**The renovations to the Scout House are complete. It is a facility that we can all be proud of. Funding was provided by the 4B Economic Development Corporation. If you are interested in reserving the Scout House for an event, please come by City Hall and fill out an application.**



**The City has recently restriped the parking spaces in the downtown area and along a portion of 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Soon we will be restriping a portion of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This will make our parking areas clearer and should eliminate confusion.**

**All City employees will have identification badges soon. The badges will have the individuals photograph, name, department and other pertinent information. This will assist the public in identifying employees when contact is made.**

**Please come by City Hall should you want to discuss these items or any other City business in greater detail.**



**“Day after day, ordinary people become heroes  
through extraordinary and selfless actions  
to help their neighbors.”**

## Kathy Harrington, Library Director



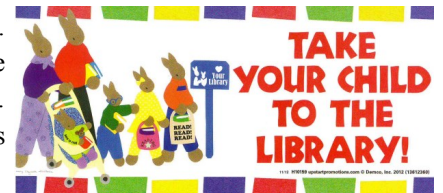
The Ferris Public Library will be holding “Take Your Child to the Library” on Saturday, February 7, 2015. This is a program where free library membership is offered to children ages 6 – 16, regardless of where you live. We will have a balloon artist here to make shapes and animals for our new and current young patrons. Children must be present. Parents and caregivers be sure to bring your picture ID, with current address, to be able to apply for membership.

“Fax Free February” is just around the corner. All employment related outgoing faxes will be offered at no charge throughout the month of February.

During Spring Break we will be hosting a Movie Matinee on the big screen in the Aubrey Trussell Memorial Meeting Room. For information on this and all of the Library’s activities check out our Facebook page.

An after-school Game Time is held for the kids each Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 with electronic and board games. Every Tuesday and Wednesday an after-school tutoring is offered by Russell and Mary Masek for children of all ages, sponsored by the Covenant Church. On Wednesdays we have an English/Spanish Story Time at 10:00AM where preschool children enjoy stories, games, crafts, and pick a prize from the Story Time Treasure Chest. All of the above programs are free.

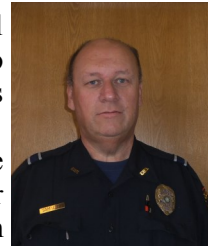
The Ferris Library is participating in a program to let our soldiers know they are appreciated. The Bluebonnet Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., is collecting and sending care package items to send to our troops. Donations are accepted at the Library’s Circulation Desk. Call 972-544-3696 for a list of suggested items. Cheree Barrett is the President of this organization and may be reached at 972-6V79-9425.



The Ferris Public Library is located at 301 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Open: Tuesday - Friday 9AM – 6PM; Saturdays 10AM – 2PM. Contact us at 972-544-3696 or email [Kathy.Harrington@ci.ferristx.us](mailto:Kathy.Harrington@ci.ferristx.us).

## Sam Love, Police Chief

The Ferris Police Department and the Ferris Community joined together for a very successful National Night Out on Tuesday evening October 7 at Mutz Park. About 500 citizens and the officers interacted to get to know each other better and learn about crime prevention and safety. We appreciate the Ferris Municipal Court, Ferris Fire Dept., Careflight, Ellis County Sheriff’s Dept., the Ellis County Pct. 1 Constable’s Office, the Boy Scouts and the Ferris HS National Honor Society for their participation. We thank Waste Management and Brookshire Brothers for providing and cooking food for all. Many other partners including Trinity Materials, Nortex Contracting, C & M Business Services, Southwest Mexican Cuisine, Dallas Popcorn, Dollar General and Family Dollar contributed to help have prizes and handouts.



Our reports of crimes was down during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s holidays compared to past years.

At our annual awards ceremony we recognized the officers for outstanding achievements during the year. Officer Tommy Russell was selected as officer of the year and Glenda Grindele was selected as Dispatcher/Telecommunicator of the year.

We want to remind everyone that we want to be a partner with the community in preventing and solving crime.

Please report anything that seems suspicious. Vehicle descriptions, license plate numbers and descriptions of possible offenders are very valuable in helping us do our job.

We also offer security checks of your property if you are out of town. Call us if you would like us to put your property on the schedule. 972/544-2233 is our non-emergency number .

## Tim Birdwell, Fire Chief

Happy New Year from the Ferris Fire Department!

As winter settles in we need to make sure our heating equipment is in proper operating condition to keep us warm and safe. Make sure filters are changed and burners are adjusted properly to prevent carbon monoxide exposure as well as operate at the best efficiency and cost effectiveness. Keep space heaters clear of items that could catch fire. Make sure heaters are UL listed and have overturn protection! Also important is to have working smoke detectors in your home. If you need smoke detectors installed in your home please contact the Ferris Fire Department, we currently have a number of smoke detectors free of charge. Contact can be made at 972-842-2898. The fire department personnel will come out to your home and install the detectors free of charge as a public service to the community.

The Ferris Fire Department now has 24 hour service 7 days a week thanks to our City Manager, Mayor & City Council. I personally want to thank each one of them for their efforts in making the city safe. We also depend heavily upon our volunteer firefighters who are a group of men and women who give of their time day in and day out. These individuals are constantly training in firefighting, emergency medical services, and rescue among answering an average of 1000 responses annually. In 2014 over 16,000 hours of activity was logged by these unselfish individuals and another 669 hours of training. Currently we are in need of volunteers for our department. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested please have them contact the Ferris Fire Department at 972-842-2898 or please come by anytime.

Tim Birdwell  
Fire Chief



**The Ferris Fire Department in conjunction with our Emergency Medical provider CareFlite are planning a community wide CPR class on March 14, 2015 from 8:00am to 3:00pm at our Scout House located at 514 S. Mable street.**

**We hope to have at least 100 people show for this event. This will be a basic CPR class and individuals will also learn how to use an automatic defibrillator for when the heart stops.**

**The class will be sponsored by CareFlite and it will be free of charge.**

**Call the Ferris Fire Department at 972-842-2898 to get your name on the list**

Fire Chief: Tim Birdwell  
Firefighters: Arturo Hernandez  
Tanner Caffee  
Korey Cox  
City Manager: Dennis Burn





## Chuck Dart, Economic Development

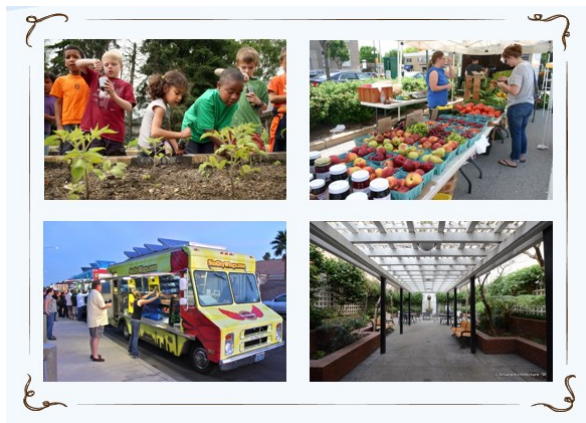


### What's up with the **Sixth Street Alley Park?**

The concrete footings for the alley park were to be poured Friday Nov. 14 when ATMOS surprised us with an announcement that they would not permit weight on their new poly lines, which will be installed in January. An alternative alley



park design uses light weight tensile fabric. A conceptual design is above. Stay tuned!



A graduate class project from the University of Texas at Arlington produced a plan that could result in a Ferris **community garden**, **farmers market**, and **Ferris food trucks**. If this sounds exciting to you, this project needs a base of volunteers. Call Chuck Dart at 972 842 2923

Empire Truss, 410 Interstate 45, was recently purchased by publically held **Builders FirstSource**. With the added financial strength, expect to see the manufacturing plant expand, hire more workers, and add to the tax base.



In early December **Ferris Nails** opened at 119 S. Main. Open Monday-Saturday 10AM—630PM, it is a great place to get a relaxing pedicure with the girls (or guys). Tracy Ho (pictured) is owner/operator. 972.544.2870

Look for **Elliot Western Wear** to open in February at 218 W Sixth Street. Operated by Carlos Martinez, wife Marilu and son Carlos, the store will focus on boots.



## Doug Childers, I.T. Director



### Our City and the next Tech Steps...

With the new year upon us it is so appropriate to introduce to you our new city app. It has been totally re-written from the ground up for a better look, feel, and adaptability. The new app now integrates seamlessly into our police/fire cad program, our new ticket system to report/track problems, employees email, website, weather, TXDot freeway cameras, alerts from Code Red, making on-line payments, Court, and much more.



The new design allows me to make changes to our app on the fly without the need to download updates when minor changes are made to the information. So once this new app is downloaded, when I add a button for example, that button will just appear when you open the app. With this new feature we are able to make minor changes and add information that will just appear when you start the app. To download, follow the links on our website or go to the iTunes app store or google play and type in City of Ferris. Thanks again, and as always if you have any questions please feel free to stop by my office or give me a call.

**Doug Childers**

**Doug.Childers@ci.ferristx.us**

**Information Technology Administrator**

**100 Town Plaza 972-544-2110**

## Bill Jordan, Chief Building Official



I have been diligently working to bring the City's Building Inspection program to a higher standard that allows for uniformity, professional reviews and inspections, and requires a fair minimum building standard. This effort has included new software, updating the City's building codes, and procedural improvements. This hard work has already seen benefits during our recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) audit.

The word audit sounds scary, but this was a positive opportunity for the city of Ferris. Property insurance rates are determined by several factors, but few are able to be impacted by the City. One of the factors where the City does have control is through the ISO rating. This rating does not just affect city buildings, but all buildings and homes within the city. The better rating the City receives, the better the insurance rates will be for our citizens. Scoring ranges between 1 and 10 with 1 being the best and 10 being the worst.

Before the audit, Building Inspection had an ISO score of 99. This score indicated that no audit had been completed for Ferris Building Inspection; a very poor rating. ISO conducted an audit for Building Inspection on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. In preparation for this audit, staff prepared documentation and data that covered all the categories to be audited. The document that guides the data collection is a 20 page survey that calls for historical data as well as procedural questions. Being that we did not currently have a rating, our goal was to reach at least a score of 5.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the City officially received word that we had in fact been awarded an ISO Score of a 5; above the national average and a big win for our community!





100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125

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-----City of Ferris Contact List-----Cut Here & Hang on your Refrigerator!-----City of Ferris Contact List-----



## Contact List

<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>972-544-2225</b>
<b>Building Official/Public Works Director</b>	<b>972-544-2965</b>
<b>City Hall</b>	<b>972-544-2110</b>
<b>Economic Development/Main Street Director</b>	<b>972-842-2923</b>
<b>Customer Service</b>	<b>972-842-2752</b>
<b>Fire Department (Non-Emergency)</b>	<b>972-842-2898</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>972-544-3696</b>
<b>Municipal Court</b>	<b>972-544-2323</b>
<b>Police (Non-Emergency)</b>	<b>972-544-2233</b>
<b>Police (Emergency)</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	<b>972-544-3071</b>
<b>Water Department</b>	<b>972-842-2786</b>